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MAGRD

17 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Combat Development Test Center, RVNAF

SUBJECT: Use of Military Dogs

1. Fifty-seven (57) U.S. Dogs are now located at the CDTC kennels. These are very expensive and very valuable dogs shipped by air freight from the U.S. They were obtained as the result of considerable effort on the part of U.S. CDTC personnel and with my personal assurance to Mr. Codel that the dogs would be properly used.

2. The two dogs (Monty and Rinty) that arrived in July 1961 were trained and assigned to the Capital Military District. Since the date of their assignment, it is understood that they have been used for only about four days each in the role for which they were trained. These dogs should be used more often because of their value and high potential. It is recommended that necessary instructions be issued by General Khanh to insure that these two dogs are used to the maximum extent possible consistent with military requirements. In this connection, it should be noted that Monty is capable of both scouting and sentry duties. Rinty, due to his lack of aggressiveness and failure to attack when ordered, should only be used on his leash and not required to attack. Both of these dogs could be a real asset to the Capital Military District if used properly.

3. Of the 6 untrained dogs airshipped from the U.S. and the 2 purchased locally, 6 have been ready for assignment to combat units since about 3 November. These dogs are still occupying needed space in the crowded kennels and have been used only two times on operational missions. It is understood that these dogs are to be assigned to Field Command. It is suggested that these dogs be transferred at an early date to their permanent units and that they be assigned operational duties as soon as possible.

4. Since all of the 10 dogs discussed in paragraphs 2 and 3 above are still considered a part of Task 19, the CDTC should continue to get monthly reports from the assigned units, such as the following:

- a. Periods of operational use.
- b. Type of duties assigned.
- c. Effectiveness in assigned duties.
- d. Recommendations for improvement of training program.
- e. Other remarks which will provide CDTC with information necessary to evaluate the results obtained on Task 19.

DECLASSIFIED

FORM 892 No. S208

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
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(DoD to be advised)

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NW 24720

By SAF-H Date 2004

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When the remaining dogs and newly assigned handlers complete their training and are assigned to combat duties, similar reports should be submitted to CDTC on each dog. This will permit a continuous flow of information that can be used as a basis for improving the training program of the Dog Training Center.

5. The CDTC has high hopes for the success of the Sentry and Patrol Dog Program in South Viet Nam. Its success will depend to a large degree upon RVNAF reactions resulting from the initial use of dogs. In this connection, it has been rumored that some high ranking U.S. and RVNAF officers would like to obtain one or more of these trained dogs for use at their homes. This idea should be strongly discouraged, since these dogs were procured for a definite purpose: combat operations. If one officer is successful in obtaining a personal Sentry Dog, then this could result in many other individuals (both civilian and military) wanting dogs.

VERGAL R. CHILSON
Colonel, GS
Chief, R&D Division

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(DOD D.P. 5200.10)